

District VI Advisory Board
Minutes
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Monday
February 1, 2010
6:30 p.m.

Evergreen Recreation Center
2700 N. Woodland
Lounge Clubroom

The District VI Advisory Board meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. at the Evergreen Recreation Center Lounge Clubroom 2700 N. Woodland. District VI councilwoman led the meeting with six (6) District Advisory Board members in attendance, seven (7) city staff and thirteen (13) members of the public who signed in.

Members Present

Marsha Carr
Scott Dunakey
Charlie Claycomb
John VanWalleghen
Bob Aldrich
Carol Skaff

Members Absent

Jaya Escobar
Pat Randleas

Staff Present

Officer Royse, Fire
Officer Birdwell, Patrol West
Terri Dozal, Neighborhood Assistant
Officer Sharp, Patrol North
Officer Schwiethale, Patrol South
Mitch Coffman, WAMPO
Dennis McHugh, IT

Council Member Janet Miller called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. welcoming everyone. **Miller** asked members to introduce themselves and state their representation on the board.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for January 4, 2010 were approved as submitted and the minutes for January 20, 2010 were approved with an amendment (**Skaff/Claycomb 6-0**).

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted (**VanWalleghen/Claycomb 6-0**).

Public Agenda

1. **Scheduled items:** No items were discussed.
2. **Off-agenda items:** No items were discussed.

***** **Action:** Provide comments/take appropriate action.

Staff Presentations

3. **Community Police Report**

Patrol South: *Officer Schwiethale* reported criminal activity has been slow in Old Town. There has been some underage drinking in one bar and with the new ordinance in effect we hope this will fix that issue. Officers are offering to assist some businesses with Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). With the opening of the Arena there has been no effect on Old Town as crime remains down.

Patrol West: *Officer Birdwell* reported we have seen a decrease in certain crimes such as residential burglaries and burglaries. Officers continue to watch for auto thefts since recovering two stolen autos after catching a suspect in a truck on River Blvd.

Patrol North: *Officer Sharp* reported there have been no big crimes in his area except for an increase in graffiti at 29th and Fairview from rival gangs.

*******Action:** Receive and file

4. Fire Department Report

Fire Officer Royse, reported in Dec. 2009 there had only been one structure fire in District 6 at 1547 N. Payne. The total EMS and rescue alarms were 495 and service alarms was 179. If you would like more information you can always check the city's website and go to the fire section.

Royse continued saying the next Citizen Fire Academy would begin in May and the department was opening the program first to DAB members. It is a 10 week course from 6-10 pm on Thursdays. We had good participation last year and we look forward to the upcoming class. **Carr** asked if she could write about the program in the neighborhood newsletter. *Royse* responded yes but they wanted to offer the class first to the DAB members. It was mentioned the class should be in the fall when there is cooler weather.

*******Action:** Receive and file

New Business

5. Changes/Revisions to City Ordinance 9.08 Regarding Trees and Shrubs

Justin Combs, City Arborist discussed the update to the Park Board's review of Chapter 9.08 regarding trees and shrubs as some of the provisions have not been updated for 30 years. *Combs* stated the ordinances recognize the City has the responsibility to maintain trees in the public right of way. The amendments set forth the procedures to be utilized by city staff to remove infested trees from private property, and also recognize the Park and Recreation Department is responsible for the maintenance, pruning and removal of trees in the public right of way. The revisions will also increase the penalty, which may be assessed for violating the ordinances and there is a change of authoritative body from the Board of Park Commissions to the Director of Park and Recreation.

The Board asked the following questions/comments: *responses in Italics*

- Why has the change of authoritative body to the Park director occurred? *The Board of Commissions was an advisory board and the City Council moved to bring this control back to the City.*

Miller explained the Park Board of Commissions (BOC) used to hire/fire the Park Director. They had more authority and also owned property. Since the late 1990's the BOC still owns some park property that can't be sold but they are not involved in administrative decisions anyone.

- Did the BOC have some involvement with the tennis dome in Riverside Park? *The Board was not happy with that decision.*
- As Director of Parks will he also have control over trees on private property? *Only if they learn of diseased trees which could need hazardous abatement.*
- What does competent governmental authority mean? *Someone with experience of the subject.*
- Section 4 and Section 13 seem to contradict themselves. *Section 4 is for trees on ROW and section 13 is for trees on private property.*
- I have a problem with the government coming in and telling me the owner what to do. *In the last five years there has only been once instance that this has occurred and this was to protect the other trees in the community. This does not give the City a pass to do what they want.*
- Do homeowners have to mow the ROW if our property line begins 25ft of it? *Homeowners are required to maintain the ROW.*
- Were these revisions modeled after any other cities in Kansas? *No, but we have reviewed other cities policies.*
- The fees that are collected are to pay for the services to the property if needed, correct? I don't see where it is written for an appeal process for private property owners. This should be added. *With problem trees we do get a 2nd opinion before we do any cutting.*

At this point, **Carr** asked if it would be possible to get a cliff-note version of the ordinance for neighborhoods and to also put it on the website. *Combs* responded he could provide a summary once he had input from all the DAB's.

Miller asked if he could provide the five points that were listed on the green sheet for council members. **Combs** said he is trying to make this document in line with what they actually do that's why we're looking at it now.

- In Section 3/C where it states shall demand payment - this should include a time frame.

Miller asked if a person can't pay, then the fee is attached to their property tax correct? *Yes it's stated in the ordinance.*

- There should be something written in the ordinance that if people can't pay due to no income what they can do to protect them. *We could possibly add the resident could do a possible protest petition.*
- There is no mention of trees over a utility who is responsible. *It is State Statue that the owner of utility companies has the right to maintain clearance.*

Miller asked if a resident wants tree service for their curb and sidewalk first they need permission from the city. *Yes.*

- In Section 7 on page 5 where it states Notice to owner in control to remove or shut off current; this is to be a cost to the property owner – it should state who is responsible for turning the service back on.

Bruce Simkins, 501 W. 42nd Street N. asked if there was an ice/wind storm and if on the city ROW there were branches hanging in the street, is it okay for the citizen to cut them off. When can you do minimal pruning on ROW?

Miller stated if there is an ice storm and the tree is already damaged you can pull off the branches.

Combs stated that daily routine won't keep a homeowner from cutting sprouts but it is to prevent businesses from horribly cutting on trees.

Tom Carr, 1027 W. River Blvd. said the caretaking of trees in city parks is terrible. Trees fall into the river and streams and before I would allow the park dept. on my property they need to take better care of there own trees.

Kathy Dittmer, 823 Litchfield WIN Action Committee is planning on looking at this further. She said this was a teachable moment by the Park Dept. as 90%-95% of the population doesn't know what to do with their easements and alley ways. It's the City's right to protect trees but when you have residents on fixed incomes who can't afford to do what the city is requesting what recourse they have. We need clarification and more than just televising it on Channel 7. We need this to be returned to DAB.

- We need more clarification on this ordinance.
- There are still a lot of concerns with the way this ordinance is written, it needs to be deferred until it's updated.

*******Action:** The District VI Advisory Board made a motion to recommend deferral of the ordinance changes until concerns are addressed and to return to the DAB for follow-up. (**Aldrich/Dunakey 6-0**)

Combs said all we're trying to do is change the authority's permission and we know the ordinance is outdated.

Cindy Claycomb, Board of Commissions stated we recommended the change for who would be responsible and for administering the ordinance.

6. Wichita Point-to-Point Network

Dennis McHugh, IT department stated his department was tasked with finding a solution to provide a transfer path for the data generated from two (2) complex Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) projects. Due to many instances of slow and problematic transfer rates of data with the current leased buried cable network structure, the IT/IS Department was searching for a solution for possible replacement of the leased service. It was determined that the most viable and economical approach would be to replace the current leased network with a Point-to-Point (P2P) broadband telecommunications system that will provide a means for transferring large amounts of data from a fixed location over long distances. The project is under development and once completed it will

provide a Citywide infrastructure and several other City Departments have expressed an interest in utilizing the P2P network for transfer of data specific to projects they are developing.

A total of nine (9) antenna sites will be constructed to form the entire backbone ring of the network. The nine sites shall be divided into two rings servicing the east half and west half of the City. Three sites have been determined to connect back to the City Hall building which will house the servers for data repository of each application operating across the P2P network. This will provide a redundant path back to City Hall for any data transfer, should one site fail.

The Board asked the following questions/comments: *responses in Italics*

- What would be the annual maintenance for each site? *Around \$1500 a month. We can lease some space to help pay for it.*
- Will any schools be used to support this? *Structural wise we can't use the schools.*
- What is the strength of band width? *1100 Mega Hertz.*
- Your future projection looked at improving transit and signals? *Yes*
- How stable will it be with 100 mph/straight wind?
- How long will it take to install?
- Will this handle dust? *Yes.*

Bruce Simpkins asked what about the possibility of hacking into the city's system. *The city will provide a level of encryption approaching that is provided by the DOD.*

Jerry Prichard asked if fiber-optic cable would be used as a security measure. *This would severely increase the cost of the project and then you're still looking at the potential that the line may be damaged by a contractor digging it up, etc.*

McHugh finished saying the whole focus is to develop a mobile environment that will send information back to City Hall.

*******Action:** The District VI Advisory Board made a motion to recommend Approval of the installation of a lattice style facility for the Point-to-Point Network Project. **(Dunakey/Claycomb 6-0)**

7. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2035

Mitch Coffman, Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) gave a brief presentation on the progress of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2035. The MTP is an update of the current regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2030, which expires in August of 2010. The MTP 2035 will enable local agencies to use federal funding for transportation projects. These projects included all of Sedgwick County, Andover and some of Mulvane with a total of 298 submitted. The projects were scored by how well each addressed the four short-term objectives of the MTP 1) to improve safety; 2) to provide the greatest benefit to the region; 3) reduce air pollution and 4) increase options for getting around. *Coffman* passed out information with the four project packages/scenarios created for everyone to review and said the next step would be to select the preferred package from the survey that residents can provide feedback to. The survey can be found on www.wampoks.org

VanWalleghe asked if they take projects listed on the CIP. *Coffman* said they do as we look at priority projects. **Aldrich** stated the main goal should be to see Wichita as a transportation hub since we are in the middle of the country. **Aldrich** continued he would like to see this revisited due to an economic impact of billions of dollars and he is glad to see the list of 27 bridges included as it's cheaper to maintain a bridge than replace it.

*******Action:** Receive and File

Board Agenda

8. Problem Properties

River Blvd. along 11th/Buffum Street: Year 65' Ford F-100 with the tag displayed in the rear window.

*******Action:** Receive and propose appropriate action.

9. **Neighborhood Reports**

No reports were given.

Updates from the councilmember

Announcements

- Next DAB meeting will be on Wednesday, February 17, 2010

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m. (**Dunakey/Skaff 6-0**)

Guests

Cindy Claycomb
Clare D. O'Leary/Siemer
Dick L. Siemer
Justin Combs
Kathy Dittmer
Christine Eberle
Tom Carr
Jerry Prichard
Greg Boyajian
Bruce Simkins
Clarice Miller
Anna Madden
Delora Donovan

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Dozal, Neighborhood Assistant